

*a<sup>3</sup>  
nd*

effect decarboxylation of the loaded residue to provide a corresponding optionally substituted acetyl residue for transfer to an adjacent one of said extension modules, and wherein at least one of the extension modules is not naturally associated with a loading module that effects decarboxylation; with the proviso that the target polyketide is not a 14-membered macrolide having a 13-methyl group due to incorporation of an (unsubstituted) acetate starter; said multienzyme having the ability to synthesize said target polyketide.

Please cancel claim 8.

**REMARKS**

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple claims dependencies.

The foregoing amendments do not introduce new matter into the present application, and, therefore should not be deemed objectionable. Entry of the present amendments is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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